

May 2014 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

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Overview

May 2014 experienced temperatures around normal values in the 50s (Fig. 1 and 2) and precipitation around to 50 percent above normal (Fig 4). No monthly records were achieved at any of the main climate sites.

The beginning of the month was dominated by slow moving frontal systems. This led to significant precipitation and large variability in temperatures. The last large push of cold air from Canada came near mid-month with near freezing temperatures. A transition to spring followed with a slow warm up. Temperatures were less variable for the rest of May with values mostly above normal. Temperatures at our main climate sites (Table 1) show the average temperatures through all the variability ended up near normal values.

No snow fell in May even though most of the precipitation fell in the first half of the month, as winter gave its last gasp. Though little precipitation fell later in May, precipitation totals were near to above normal thanks to the active weather early in the month. Rainfall ranged from 3 to 5 inches with the greatest values recorded from West Central Lower Michigan into Southeast Lower Michigan (Fig 3). This included the Lansing airport which had 4.24 inches (Table 1).

Little in the way of severe weather occurred in May 2014. A few of the systems that passed through the area had hail with diameters of an inch to an inch and a half. Strong winds also knocked over a tree or two. The main hazard for the month was areal and river flooding. The main flood area matched up well with the greatest precipitation shown in Figure 3.

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Table 1. Reported temperature, precipitation, and snowfall amounts for May 2014 at primary climate stations in Southwest Lower Michigan and departures from normal.

Location		Average Temperature (°F)	Precipitation (inches)	Snowfall (inches)
Grand Rapids	Observed	59.3	3.31	0.0
	Departure from Normal	0.6	- 0.67	0.0
	Normal	58.7	3.98	0.0
Lansing	Observed	58.4	4.24	0.0
	Departure from Normal	0.7	0.88	0.0
	Normal	57.7	3.36	0.0
Muskegon	Observed	57.0	3.72	0.0
	Departure from Normal	0.1	0.47	0.0
	Normal	56.9	3.25	0.0

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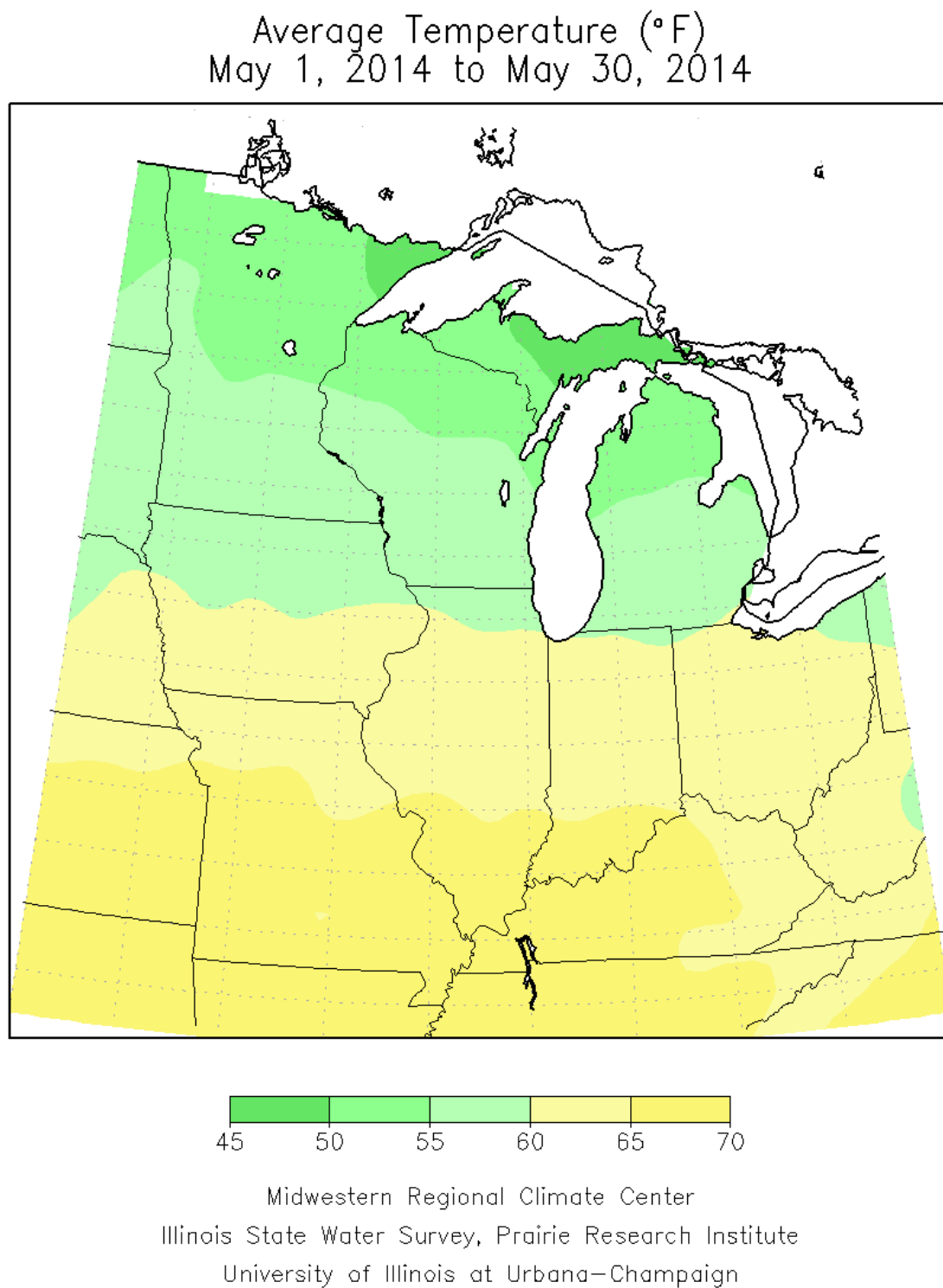
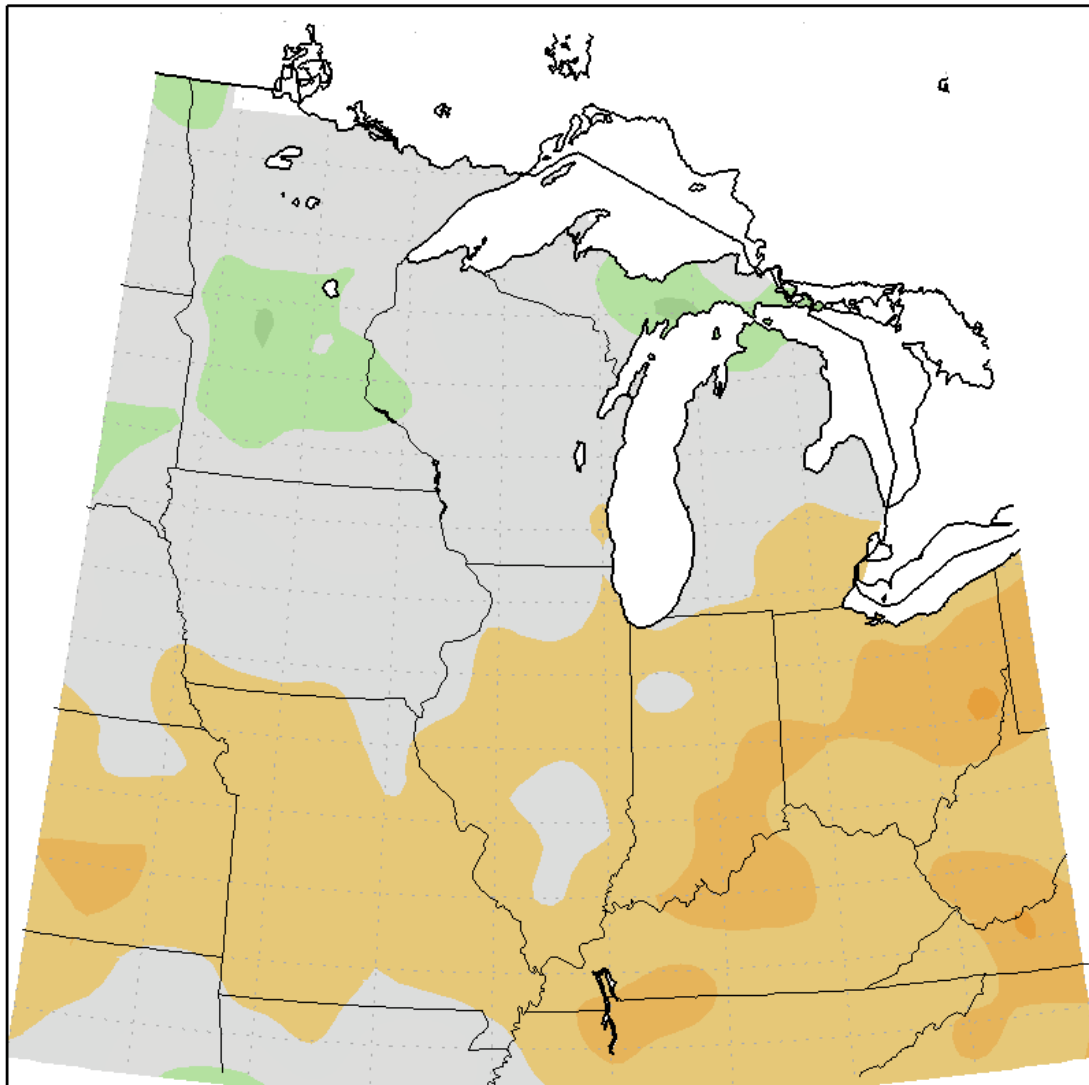


Figure 1. Average temperature (°F) for May 2014.

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Average Temperature (°F): Departure from Mean
May 1, 2014 to May 30, 2014



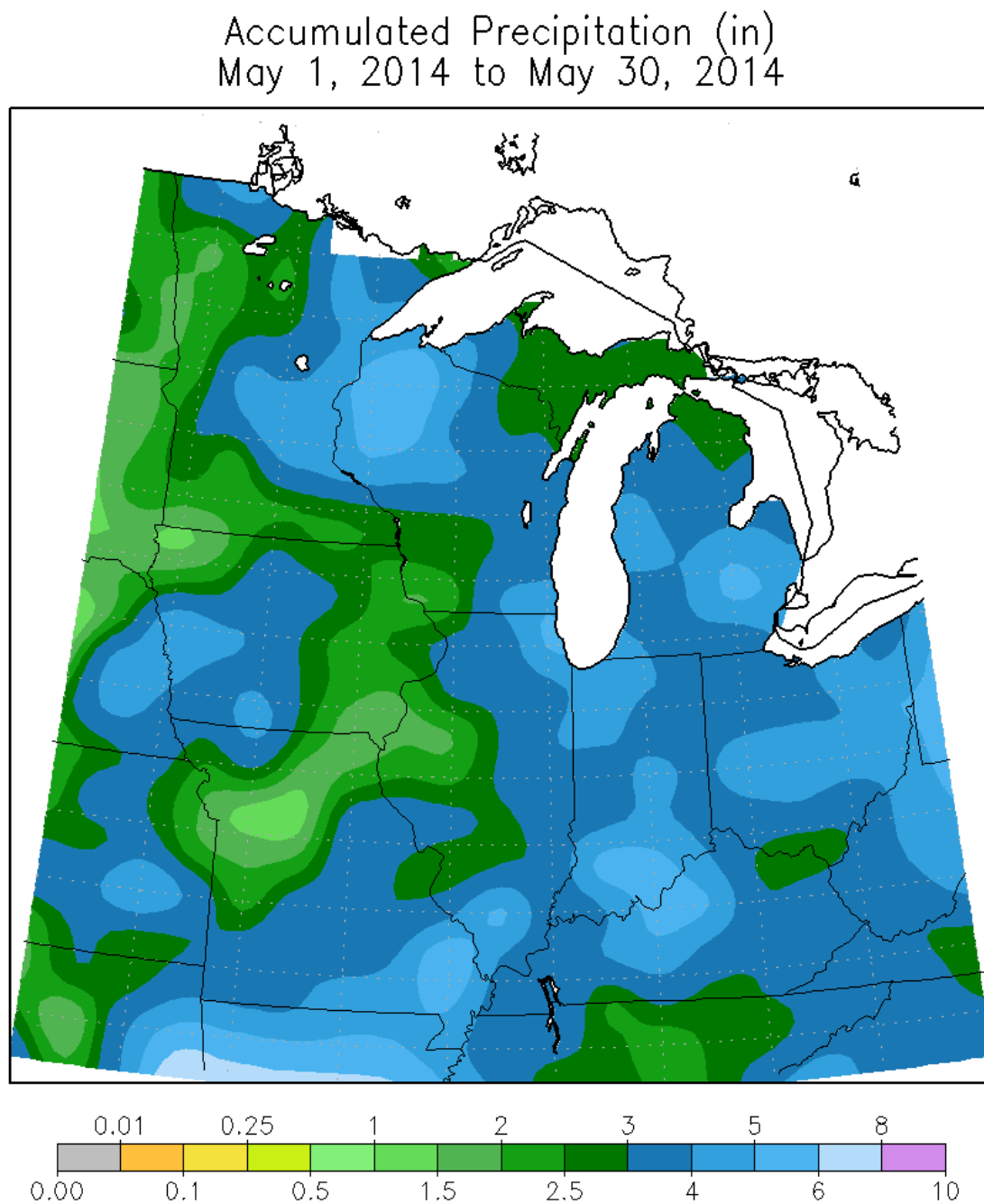
Mean period is 1981–2010.



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Figure 2. Average temperature departure from normal (°F) for May 2014.

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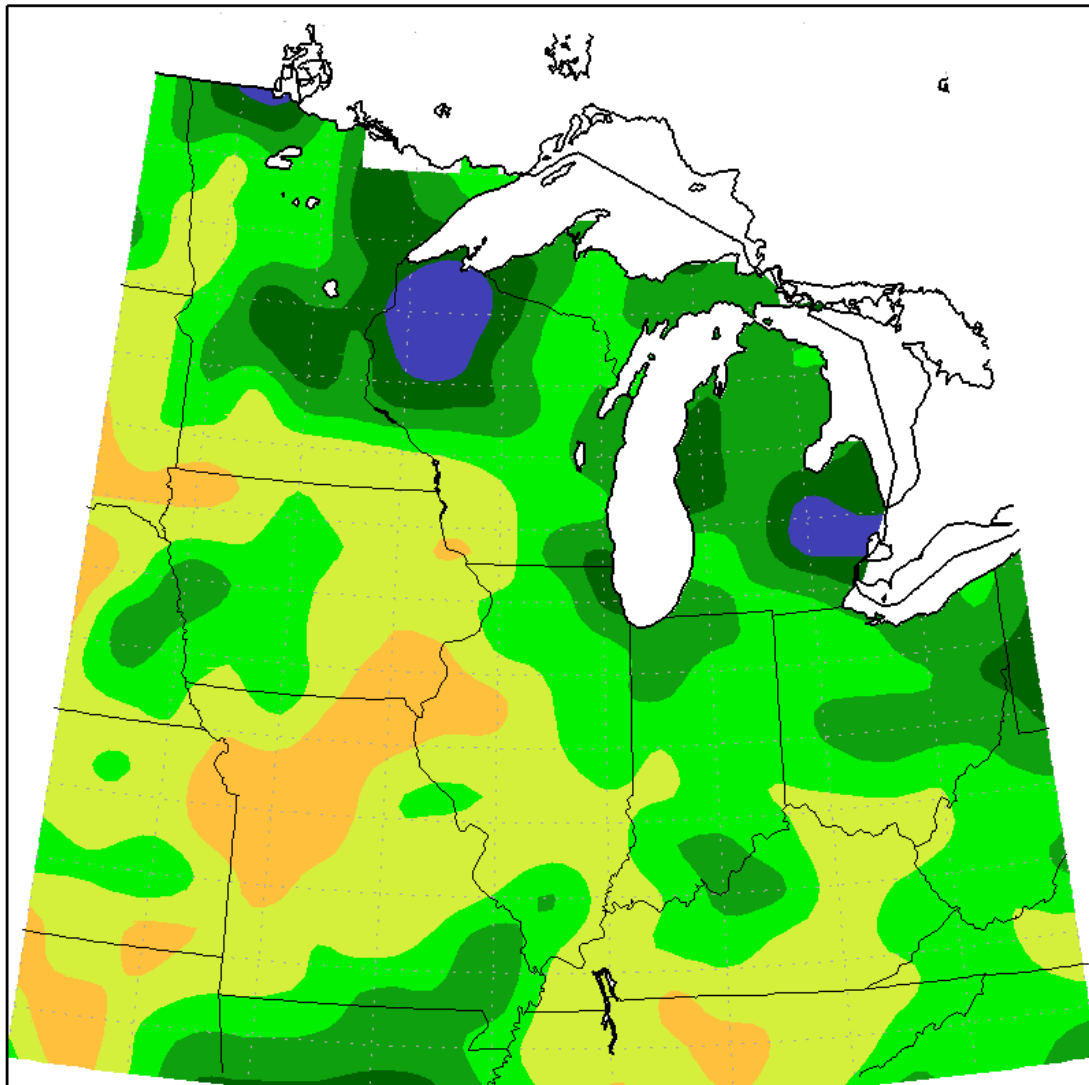


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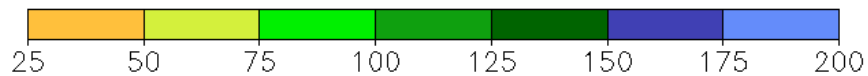
Figure 3. Total precipitation (in inches) for May 2014.

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Accumulated Precipitation: Percent of Mean
May 1, 2014 to May 30, 2014



Mean period is 1981-2010.



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Figure 4. Precipitation percentage of mean (in inches) for May 2014.